

NOTES ON SOME HALTICINAE WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW SPECIES (COL. CHRYSOMELIDAE).

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Hamletia dimidiaticornis Cr.

In his revision of the Halticini Dr. Horn says of this insect that it "seems to be one of the rarest of our Halticides." It is recorded so far only from Georgia and Florida. It has been taken at Mobile, Alabama (Loding); Southern Pines, South Carolina (Manee in Coll. Cornell Univ.) and Cape May, New Jersey, (Wm. T. Davis).

The coloration of the antennal joints is variable, the first three and the last two are only pale in some males, in a female, which sex was unknown to Dr. Horn, the antennae are black with the last joint more or less pale and in form is broader than the male.

Oedionychis interjectionis gracilis Jacoby.

In the Leng Catalogue this Mexican form is doubtfully recorded as occurring in the U. S. and Mrs. Blake in Proc. N. S. Nat. Museum, vol. 70, p. 15, places *gracilis* as synonym of *interjectionis*.

Typical *gracilis* apparently do not occur here in the U. S., they have the subsutural white elytral vittae entire and of equal width from base to not quite to apex, in the North American specimens with entire white vittae the apical part of the latter is always wider more or less strongly dilated, extending to the white lateral margin in some specimens. I have seen a few Mexican specimens from Presidio, and a great number of our insect, especially from Texas, where at Brownsville I found it very common, but not one of these from the latter locality had the white vittae of equal width throughout as in the Mexican specimens; the ground color of elytra is apparently also more distinctly metallic green in the Mexican insect.

Oedionychis petaurista brevilineata Horn.

In this black variety the narrow, short pale linear vitta on each elytron is present either at base or sometimes at apex.

Oedionychis flavocyanea Cr.

Described and recorded only from Texas, this species occurs also in Arizona.

Haltica kalmiae viridana n. var.

Differs from typical reddish cupreous *kalmiae* in being entirely metallic green. Virginia: Mt. Vernon (Mrs. Blake), Skylight (Quirsfeld), Glencarlyn (Bridwell), Great Falls (Knab); Maryland: Montgomery Co. (Shoemaker); North Carolina: Balsam (Wenzel); Tennessee: Flat Top Mt., Unaka Spgs. (Siepmann). The type is a specimen from Mt. Vernon in the coll. of the Nat. Museum, paratypes in the Nat. Museum and my own collection. This form was taken by Mrs. Blake, Messrs. Knab and Bridwell on *Kalmia latifolia* and by the latter also on *Azalea*.

The four small, cupreous-golden eastern *Halticas* with deep, entire ante-basal groove of prothorax look superficially very much alike and may cause a little difficulty in separating them. The following brief notes are given to assist in the identification of these four species.

Haltica ignita Illiger.

This species is at once readily distinguished from the others by both sexes having a more or less distinct lateral plica or fold on each elytron, which is usually rather faint basally but distinct near its apex. The reddish color is often suffused with green or greenish blue above and below. The broad ante-scutellar lobe of prothorax is always distinct.¹ The elytral punctures are rather sparse and moderate in size.

The lateral plica of the elytra, though variable in distinctness is apparently never absent, at least, in the twenty odd specimens of both sexes from different localities seen, this plica, though variable, was present in all. According to the labels on specimens from New Hampshire, South Carolina, Maryland, Virginia, and Alabama it is apparently found only on different species of *Prunus*.

Haltica rosae Woods.

Nearly of the same form as *ignita* with similar sparse elytral puncturation but with never a trace of a lateral elytral plica. The basal margin of prothorax is rather evenly arcuate-truncate and without ante-scutellar lobe; the surface is usually less shining than in the *kalmiae* and more or less alutaceous especially the basal area of the pronotum between the ante-basal groove and basal margin.

¹ This ante-scutellar lobe of prothorax is apparently better developed in the females than in the males.

Of this species I have seen specimens from Maine, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey and Iowa. Its principal food plant is the wild rose.

Haltica kalmiae Welsh.

This is generally a little larger than *rosae* and *ignita*, with slightly more elongate and somewhat more parallel-sided elytra and the punctures of the latter usually larger and more numerous. The basal margin of prothorax has a more or less distinct broad ante-scutellar lobe. Elytral plica absent.

It occurs on several species of laurel and occasionally on wild *Azalea* and is the common species mostly found in the eastern states.

Haltica pretiosa Blatchl.

This species is very much like *kalmiae* but the elytra are more regularly oval, the puncturation is generally coarser and the ante-basal groove of prothorax is less deeply impressed at middle, occasionally very faint and almost obliterated, but is always distinct at sides. The ante-scutellar basal lobe of the prothorax is rather feeble in the few specimens of both sexes seen. It was described from Indiana, but I have found specimens at Yaphank, Long Island, on the leaves of the wild rose.

Haltica corni Woods.

Of this species, which is recorded from Michigan, Wisconsin, Maine, Massachusetts and New York, I have a single specimen from New Braunfels, Texas.

Haltica oregonensis n. sp.

Male: Elongate-oval, dark aeneous, surface shining, below and legs black with a more or less metallic tint. Head smooth with a few punctures near the eyes, frontal carina obtuse, tubercles distinct; antennae reaching to about middle of elytra, black, joints three and four scarcely differ in length, outer joints nearly equal but slightly stouter. Prothorax nearly twice as wide at base than long, sides feebly arcuate and slightly narrowing towards apical angles, the latter thickened, basal angles obtuse, slightly rounded; basal margin almost evenly rounded; surface very finely and sparsely punctulate, punctures scarcely visible on the disk but more evident and closer near anterior angles; ante-basal transverse impression obliterated on the disk but distinct at sides. Elytra slightly wider at base than the prothorax, humeral angles

rounded, umbo feebly distinct; irregularly and nearly equally punctate from base to apex, punctures moderately coarse, and only slightly smaller near apical margin rather much larger than those of the prothorax. Ventral segments moderately punctate, last segment with a broad median lobe with a distinct transversely impressed line near its apical margin and above this the surface is feebly depressed. Length 4 mm.

Waldport, Oregon.

The almost smooth and shining pronotum with obliterated ante-basal impression and the relatively coarsely and from base to apex nearly equally punctate elytral together with its rather elongate-oval form ought to make this species an easily recognizable one.

Haltica subopaca n. sp.

Moderately elongate-oval, surface subopaque, dull blue, underside more shining, black with more or less bluish tint, legs more distinctly blue. Head smooth behind the eyes, a few, rather coarse punctures near the latter; frontal tubercles flat, distinctly limited above by a finely impressed line; frontal carina obtuse; antennae black, about one half as long as the body, third and fourth joints nearly equal in length, outer joints very slightly thicker. Prothorax a little wider at base than long, sides slightly arcuately narrowing to apical angles which are feebly thickened; disk convex, the ante-basal line distinctly impressed, but generally not deeply so, evanescent at sides, surface more or less alutaceous, distinctly but finely punctulate; basal margin rather evenly arcuate without ante-scutellar lobe. Elytra slightly wider than the prothorax at base; humeri rounded, humeral callus indistinct; surface alutaceous, dull, distinctly punctate, punctures moderate and slightly smaller towards apex. Ventral segments finely and sparsely punctate, the first two a little more coarsely. Length: 3.5 mm.

Arizona: Huachuca Mts., June, (Schaeffer); Phoenix (Kunze); Sierra Ancha Mts., July (Duncan).

Type and paratypes in National Museum collection, paratypes in my collection.

The last ventral segment of the male at apex is slightly sinuate on each side, median lobe moderate, feebly flattened at middle and with a more or less distinct longitudinal impression at apex.

The impressed ante-basal line of prothorax is variable, in some it is rather deeply impressed in others less so, but is always distinct. The elytral puncturation varies also a good deal.

This species should be placed near *foliacea*, from which it will be distinguished by the dull, not shining upper surface, distinct ante-basal impression of prothorax and distinctly punctate elytra together with the rather shorter and somewhat more convex form; some of these characters will also separate it from *H. brisleyi* Gent., which is a slightly larger insect.

The old genus *Crepidodera* has been divided into several genera in Europe and some of our species formerly listed as *Crepidodera* have been properly transferred to the correct genera in our recent catalogue. However, the following three species are still listed under the genus *Crepidodera*, which, following the European catalogue, should be transferred to the genera *Derocrepis* and *Chalcoides*.

Crepidodera erythropus Melsh. and *C. aesculi* Dury.

These two species belong in the genus *Derocrepis* Weise the species of which differ from *Crepidodera* in being of more elongate form, the pronotum at base with a distinct marginal bead, and the frontal tubercles of head rather large and distinctly separated above and from each other and the area between the transverse groove and basal margin of pronotum is more or less convex. *C. aesculi*, recorded so far only from Ohio, has been taken by Mr. Siepmann in Tennessee.

The species of *Crepidodera* are of shorter and relatively slightly more robust form, the base of pronotum is without marginal bead and the frontal tubercles are connate above or at most very obscurely separated. This latter character is present in *pallida* and *robusta* but not in *atriventris* and *nitens* in which the tubercles are separated from the frons by a distinctly impressed, transverse line.

Crepidodera longula Horn.

The elongate form, the pronotum distinctly margined at base, the frontal tubercles rather small and transverse, distinctly separated from each other and above and the area between the transverse groove and basal margin flat—convex in *Derocrepis*—places this species in the genus *Chalcoides*.

***Systema variata* n. sp.**

Oblong, color black, each elytron with a more or less distinct pale vitta. Head shining, sparsely and finely punctate; antennae slender, joints two and three more or less distinctly tertaceous at base. Prothorax about one third wider than

long, sides nearly parallel to a little above middle then slightly narrowing to apical angles, which are somewhat obliquely truncate and rounded. Lateral margins narrowly reflexed; ante-basal transverse impression very feeble, shallow; disk shining, punctures moderate, not closely placed. Elytra wider at base than the prothorax, humeri rounded, sides feebly rounded, apices subtruncate; disk shining, closely and moderately coarsely punctate. Body below shining, ventral segments and legs sparsely pubescent. Length: 3.5 mm.

Verde Val., Arizona.

The coloration of the elytra is very variable in this species. Some specimens have a very distinct pale vitta on each elytron, which is slightly curved at base, and dilated at its apex, in these the pronotum also is very narrowly pale at basal margin, other specimens have the vitta very feebly indicated or as in some there is only a more or less distinct sub-basal and ante-apical pale spot, which are occasionally only faintly visible. Specimens with entirely black elytra I have not seen but possibly occur. One specimen, which I place with this species as an extreme variation, has the antennae, head underside and legs black or piceous, prothorax and elytra pale, the latter with black vittae, one at suture and one on each side but remote from the lateral margin and extending from base to above apical fifth. The puncturation of pronotum is also variable.

Systema marginalis corni var. nov.

Differs from typical *marginalis* in the absence of black lateral margins of prothorax and elytra and slightly more elongate form.

Mobile, Alabama.

According to Mr. Loding this unicolorous pale form occurs only on *Cornus floridanus*.

Systema discrepans n. sp.

Small, moderately elongate, black, head, prothorax and elytra shining metallic-green, legs and antennae yellowish testaceous, the outer four or five joints of the latter more or less piceous. Head finely and very sparsely punctate, surface not smooth but somewhat rugose; frontal tubercles above the antennal insertion distinct; antennae slender reaching to the middle of elytra. Prothorax transverse, about twice as wide as long; sides distinctly arcuate, anterior angles slightly oblique; posterior angles distinct but obtuse; transverse ante-

basal groove obliterated at middle, vague, but more visible at sides; disk finely and sparsely punctate. Elytra distinctly wider at base than the prothorax; humeri rounded, sides gradually but not strongly widening posteriorly and about twice as long as wide at base; surface irregularly, not closely punctate with moderate punctures which are less numerous and nearly obliterated in about apical half. Ventral segments sparsely punctate. Posterior tibiae not grooved on the outer edge. Length: 2.5 mm.

Huachuca Mts., Arizona (Schaeffer).

Type and paratypes in National Museum collection and paratypes in my collection.

This little species looks rather strange among our North American species but it has all the generic characters of *Systema* with the exception of the last joint of maxillary palpi which is about as long as the preceding joint, but not longer. It seems to be allied to the Mexican *coxalis*.

***Cicindela purpurea nigerrima* Leng.**—While looking over the Frederick Blanchard collection at the Museum of Comparative Zoology in Cambridge recently, I discovered a fine specimen of this black variety. It is labelled, "Dracut, Mass. June 4, 1887." This record antedates my Framingham specimen (Sept., 1904) by 17 years and indicates how unusual its occurrence is in Massachusetts.—C. A. FROST, Framingham, Mass.